

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An endoluminal access system for accessing a body lumen, comprising:

a guide track which, when in an operative position, extends through a body lumen to a desired location therewithin; and

a modular device selectively coupleable to the guide track, the modular device including a drive mechanism for engaging the guide track to move the modular device along the guide track within the body lumen.
2. The system of claim 1, wherein the guide track includes one of a catheter and a guide wire.
3. The system of claim 1, wherein the guide track includes a substantially helical contact surface formed on an outer surface thereof and wherein the drive mechanism engages the contact surface to move the modular device along the guide track.
4. The system of claim 1, wherein the drive mechanism includes a motor located within the modular device.
5. The system of claim 4, wherein the motor is an electric motor and wherein the drive mechanism includes a cable extending out of the modular device to an external power source.
6. The system of claim 1, wherein the drive mechanism includes a threaded member for engaging the contact surface and rotating about the guide track.
7. The system of claim 1, wherein the modular device includes a guide track

receiving lumen extending therethrough for receiving the guide track therein.

8. The system of claim 1, wherein the drive mechanism includes gears moveable between an engaging position for engaging the guide track to move the modular device therealong and a retracted position separated from the guide track.

9. The system of claim 1, further including an anchoring module moveable along the guide track for anchoring the guide track at a desired location within the body lumen.

10. The system of claim 9, wherein the anchoring module includes a first extendible member moveable between a retracted position in which the anchoring module is free to move within the body lumen and an extended position in which the first extendible member contacts a wall of the body lumen to anchor the guide track in a desired position therewithin.

11. The system of claim 10, wherein the first extendible member includes a first balloon, the system further comprising a first inflation lumen extending between an inlet which remains outside the patient's body to an outlet coupled to the first balloon.

12. The system of claim 1, further comprising a second extendible member coupled to the modular device, the second extendible member being moveable between a retracted position in which the modular device is free to move within the body lumen and an extended position in which the second extendible member contacts a wall of the body lumen to anchor the modular device at a desired position therewithin.

13. The system of claim 12, wherein the second extendible member includes a second balloon, the system further comprising a second inflation lumen extending between an inlet which remains outside the patient's body to an outlet coupled to the second balloon.

14. A modular device for tissue resection comprising:

a housing including a guide track receiving lumen extending therethrough;

a motor mounted within the housing, the motor being selectively engageable with a guide track received within the guide track lumen to move the modular device therealong;

a tissue receiving chamber formed within the housing;

a grabbing mechanism for drawing a selected portion of tissue into the tissue receiving chamber;

a resection mechanism for resecting the selected portion of tissue.

15. The system of claim 14, further comprising a stapling mechanism for stapling a portion of tissue adjacent to the selected portion of tissue.

16. The system of claim 14, wherein the housing includes a window moveable between an open position in which the tissue receiving chamber is exposed to an exterior of the housing and a closed position in which the tissue receiving chamber is substantially closed.

17. The system of claim 14, wherein the motor is an electric motor including a sleeve armature extending around the guide track receiving lumen.

18. The device of claim 14, wherein the grabbing mechanism include opposable arms which may be extended to grasp the selected portion of tissue and retracted to draw the selected portion of tissue into the tissue receiving chamber.

19. The device of claim 14, wherein the grabbing mechanism includes a vacuum port for supplying negative pressure to draw the selected portion of tissue into the tissue receiving chamber.

20. The device of claim 14, wherein the motor is coupled to at least one roller gear moveable between an engagement position in which the at least one roller gear is positioned adjacent to the guide track receiving lumen to engage a guide track received therein and a retracted position in which the roller gear is separated from the guide track receiving lumen.

21. The device of claim 20, wherein the at least one roller gear includes a first set of roller gears positioned adjacent to a proximal end of the guide track receiving lumen and a second set of roller gears positioned adjacent to a distal end of the guide track receiving lumen.

22. A method of resecting tissue from a site within a body comprising the steps of:

inserting a guide track to a desired location within the body lumen;

coupling a modular device to a proximal end of the guide track;

actuating a motor mounted within the modular device to drive the modular device distally along the guide track to the site;

drawing tissue at the site into the modular device;

coupling together a portion of tissue adjacent to the site;

resecting the tissue from the site; and

actuating the motor to drive the modular device proximally to withdraw the modular device from the body lumen.

23. The method of claim 22, further comprising the step of anchoring the guide track at the desired location.

24. The method of claim 23, wherein the step of anchoring the guide track further comprises the sub-steps of:

mounting an anchoring module on the guide track;

moving the anchoring module along the guide track to an anchoring location; and

extending an anchoring member of the anchoring module to anchor the anchoring module at the anchoring location thereby anchoring the guide track at the desired location.

25. The method of claim 22, further comprising the step of extending a positioning member from the modular device to maintain the modular device in a desired position within the body lumen.